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Quality of Life in Alabama's Black Belt

By Dana Stone and Steve Fowler

Along the upper rim of the coastal plain of Alabama lies a broad valley known as the Black Belt, so called not because of its significantly large black population but because of its geologic composition of rich soil. The Black Belt is an undulating, deeply weathered plain developed mainly on chalk and marl which in the geologic time frame are of cretaceous age. The Black Belt embodies parts of thirteen counties: Barbour, Bullock, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Russell, Sumter, and Wilcox. Because the Black Belt represents a physiographic rather than simply a racial concept, it may encompass counties that appear as anomalies in a socioeconomic sense. Montgomery County represents such an anomaly, and as a result, Montgomery County is not included in this discussion of the Black Belt.

The purpose of this article is to focus on the quality of life in the Black Belt. Quality of life represents a somewhat theoretical concept and is difficult to measure directly. Economic and demographic factors including population, government and politics, income and employment, education, vital statistics, housing, and health care represent determinants of the quality of life. These factors are used frequently by other states in defining quality of life. This article examines these factors in an effort to establish the quality of life in the Black Belt when compared to Alabama at large and the United States.

Population

Population involves several elements including general population growth, changes in nonwhite population, and modifications in elderly population.

With respect to general population growth, all Black Belt counties decreased in population from 1960 to 1970. The reductions were quite significant, ranging from 7.0 percent in Macon County to 21.7 percent in Greene County. Dallas and Russell counties experienced the smallest population decreases of 2.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. Overall, the Black Belt counties experienced losses of approximately 12.0 percent during 1960 to 1970, while the state of Alabama sustained a 5.4 percent increase in population during the 1960s. While the Black Belt counties did not experience as much of a population loss from 1970 to 1980, reductions did continue. Bullock, Dallas, Hale, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox counties continued to lose population but to a significantly lesser degree than during 1960 to 1970. For the remainder of the Black Belt counties, population increased as it did for the state as a whole but at a lesser rate. Alabama's population increased 13 percent from 1970 to 1980. With respect to the individual Black Belt counties, Barbour County experienced the greatest change in population, decreasing 8.7 percent in the 1960s and then increasing 9.8 percent in the 1970s. Greene County decreased in population during the 1960s by 21.7 percent but increased 3.5 percent during the 1970s. Lowndes County's population decreased 16.3 percent in the 1960s but increased 2.8 percent in the 1970s. From 1960 to 1970 the populations of Macon, Marengo, and Russell counties decreased 7.0 percent, 12.1 percent, and 2.1 percent respectively, and from 1970 to 1980 increased 8.0 percent, 5.2 percent, and 4.3 percent respectively.

It is important to note that the population of Greene County decreased by 2,950 from 1960 to 1970 and increased by only 371 from 1970 to 1980; the population of Lowndes County similarly decreased by 2,520 from 1960 to 1970 and increased by only 356 from 1970 to 1980. Although the increases in populations for the two counties during the 1970s are meager in light of the substantial losses of the previous decade, they mark the first increases in either county for any census year since at least 1930.

The nonwhite population for all Black Belt counties remained 45 percent and above during the thirty years 1950 through 1980. Bullock, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox counties have re-

mained above 60 percent in nonwhite population. Russell County alone changed from the norm with a nonwhite population in 1980 of 39.7 percent. The Black Belt counties accounted for 7.1 percent of Alabama's total population in 1980 and 15.8 percent of the state's black population. The nonwhite population for Alabama in 1980 was 26.2 percent, significantly less than the proportion of the population in the Black Belt counties.

The proportion of the population age 65 and older continued to increase in all Black Belt counties during 1950 to 1980 as it did for Alabama as a whole. In 1950 the elderly population of the Black Belt counties equalled between 6 and 10 percent. For the state it was 6.5 percent. By 1980 the elderly population steadily increased to between 11 and 16 percent in the Black Belt. This compares to 11.3 percent statewide. It is interesting that while the elderly population of Lowndes County increased from 8.7 percent in 1950 to 11.6 percent in 1980, the county remained without any nursing home beds. Growth in the elderly population creates the potential for expanded economic growth through the development of social service enterprises for the elderly.

The age of a population represents an indicator of the work force potential within an area. The limited increase in the Black Belt population in general, coupled with a relatively large increase in the elderly population, creates a less than positive environment for work force growth.

Education

Education represents an important determinant of the quality of life. As a whole, the Black Belt counties experienced improved educational attainment during the period 1960 to 1980. Even with the improvement, the 1980 median school years completed by persons 25 and older among the Black Belt counties overall remained below the median for Alabama of 12.2 years as well as the United States median of 12.5 years. For the majority of the Black Belt counties, the 1980 median school years completed ranged from 10.1 to 11.7 years. Only Dallas and Macon Counties sustained a median approaching that of the state.

The proportion of high school graduates age 25 and over in the Black Belt also increased from between 25 to 35 percent in 1970 to between 40 and 48 percent in 1980. Dallas County, where the percent of high school graduates increased from 41.4 percent in 1970 to 53.6 percent in 1980, and Macon County, where high school graduates were 39.0 percent of the 25-plus population in 1970 and 54.3 percent in 1980, provided exceptions from the norm. The proportion of high school graduates in Alabama in 1980 equalled 56.5 percent, compared to 72.1 percent for the U.S. Increases in median school years completed and percent high school graduates are related to the passage of compulsory school education legislation.

Expenditures per pupil also increased within the Black Belt counties during the period 1970 through 1980. In fact, expenditures per pupil in Bullock, Barbour, Greene, Perry, and Wilcox counties (approximately $1,800) were larger than for the state as a whole ($1,400). This anomaly may be explained by the very high percentage of low-income residents in these counties, which resulted in increases in federal outlays for education.

While the improvements in education may not be substantial, they are positive. Increases in educational attainment have a potential for expanding political and economic participation, thereby enhancing economic and social development.

Housing

Elements used as determinants of housing quality include the percent of houses built before 1940, the percent of houses on public sewer, the percent of homes with central air conditioning, the percent of housing with complete plumbing facilities, home ownership, and the median value of owner-occupied housing units.

In 1970 between 33 and 50 percent of the houses in the Black Belt were constructed before 1940. By 1980 the proportion had decreased substantially. Macon County had the lowest incidence with 14.4 percent of its housing units built before 1940, while Bullock County had the largest incidence with 28.6 percent of its houses built before 1940. In Alabama the incidence of houses built before 1940 changed from 33 percent in 1950 to 16.2 percent in 1980, compared to 26.1 percent for the U.S. in 1980.

The proportion of houses in the Black Belt overall on

public sewer totalled between 21 and 37 percent in 1970, compared to 28 to 51 percent in 1980. Dallas and Russell counties had the largest proportions of houses on public sewer. In 1970 Dallas County had 55 percent of its houses on public sewer; Russell County had 57 percent. The 1980 figure for Dallas County was 56.4 percent; Russell County, 60.8 percent. Lowndes and Wilcox counties had the smallest proportions of houses on public sewer; 6.0 percent in Lowndes and 11.0 percent in Wilcox in 1970 and 16.4 percent in Lowndes and 22.9 percent in Wilcox in 1980. The incidence of housing units on public sewer in Alabama moved from 51.0 percent in 1970 to 52.6 percent in 1980, compared to 74.4 percent for the U.S. in 1980. Because many newer housing subdivisions are without access to public sewer, this may not be an entirely appropriate determinant of housing quality.

In 1970 the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that the incidence of substandard housing in the Black Belt region ranged from 39 percent in Russell County to 66 percent in Lowndes County. In 1970 Alabama reported 29 percent of its housing as substandard. Because the percent of substandard housing was not reported in the 1980 census, a 1970 to 1980 comparison cannot be determined.

In 1980 the percent of houses in the Black Belt lacking complete plumbing ranged from 7.5 percent in Russell County to 28.4 percent in Wilcox County. In general the number of houses in the Black Belt without complete plumbing ranged from 11.5 percent to 25.0 percent in 1980. In Alabama the number of houses lacking complete plumbing totalled 4.2 percent in 1980, compared to 2.2 percent for the U.S.

In 1980 the number of houses in the Black Belt with central air conditioning ranged between 14.2 and 30.5 percent. This is well below the statewide average for central air of 36.6 percent.

Within the Black Belt a large percentage of housing has been owner occupied, ranging between approximately 55 percent in 1970 to 70 percent in 1980. In Alabama the incidence of owner-occupied housing increased from 67 percent in 1970 to 70 percent in 1980, which compares to 64 percent for the U.S. in 1980. While the home-ownership rates for the Black Belt and the state are above the national average, it should be

Alabama's Black Belt Counties*

*NOTE: Montgomery County excluded from discussion.

realized that the median value of homes in the Black Belt is much lower than for Alabama or the U.S. In 1980 the median value of homes in the Black Belt ranged from $19,500 in Wilcox and Lowndes counties to $28,800 in Dallas County, $27,100 in Macon County, and $25,400 in Russell County. In Alabama and the U.S. the median value of homes equalled $33,900 and $47,200 respectively. Because the median value of homes in the Black Belt is so low, the value that may be placed on the relatively high percent of owner-occupied housing is uncertain.

Measures of housing quality including the percent built before 1940, the percent lacking complete plumbing, the percent substandard, and the median

value reveal that the relative value of Black Belt homes may be low indeed. Home ownership per se may not be truly indicative of the quality of housing in the Black Belt.

Vital Statistics

Another factor for determining the quality of life involves the vital statistics of the citizenry. During the period 1950 through 1980, the birthrate in the Black Belt decreased as it did for the state as a whole. Although the birthrate in 1980 remained high, ranging from 15.5 percent in Macon County to 24.0 percent in Wilcox County, the rate did decrease substantially throughout the thirty-year period. Still, in all Black Belt counties except Macon, Perry, and Russell, the birthrate in 1980 was larger than the Alabama and U.S. birthrates of 15.6 percent and 15.9 percent respectively.

Death rates for the Black Belt counties did not change significantly during the period 1950 through 1980. The rates remained somewhat constant between 9 and 14 percent in every Black Belt county, compared to 9.0 percent for Alabama and 8.8 percent for the U.S. in 1980.

The infant death rate declined substantially throughout the Black Belt during the period 1950 to 1980. The infant death rate in 1950 for Black Belt counties ranged from 28.6 percent in Perry to 60.6 percent in Lowndes and in general was approximately 50 percent. By 1980 infant deaths in the Black Belt had fallen to between 12 and 30 percent. Bullock County recorded the largest 1980 infant death rate at 30.6 percent--half the county's 1960 rate of 59.9 percent. The infant death rate for Alabama decreased from 36.4 percent in 1950 to 12.9 percent in 1980, compared to the 1980 U.S. rate of 12.6 percent.

The significant decrease in the infant death rate in 1980 throughout the Black Belt belies the relatively small numbers of hospital beds and physicians in the region. An appropriate explanation may be the increase in the availability of neonatal intensive care units in regional medical centers, coupled with increased perinatal education programs.

Health Care

In general the health care capacities of the Black Belt appear less than positive. During the period 1970 through 1980, no substantial changes in the number of hospital beds per 1,000 population appeared evident. The number of hospital beds per 1,000 persons ranged from zero in Lowndes County to 6.3 in Dallas County and 6.2 in Sumter County. In the Black Belt in general the number of hospital beds per 1,000 population ranged from 1.8 to 2.6. In Marengo County, the number increased from 2.9 in 1970 to 4.0 in 1980, and in Macon County the number decreased from 6.8 in 1970 to 1.9 in 1980. In Russell County, the number remained at 5.0 per 1,000 population from 1970 to 1980.

The number of nursing home beds per 1,000 population increased in most of the Black Belt counties during the period 1970 through 1980 except for Lowndes County. In spite of the increase in elderly population during the 1970s, Lowndes County reported no nursing home beds in 1980. While probably not proportionate to the increase in elderly population, the number of nursing home beds per 1,000 population does appear to be increasing in the Black Belt. However limited, there does appear to be a recognition of the need for expanding health care facilities for the elderly.

The number of doctors per 100,000 population among the Black Belt counties is substantially below the statewide average. In 1980 the number of physicians was lowest in Lowndes County with 15 per 100,000 population, reflecting its lack of hospital and nursing home beds. In 1980 the Black Belt counties in general sustained between 26 and 71 physicians per 100,000 population. Only Macon County with 112 and Dallas County with 111 approached the statewide rate of 119 physicians per 100,000.

Politics and Government

Citizen participation in government and politics represents another determinant of the quality of life. Within the Black Belt counties the percentage of the voting age population who voted in the 1980 presidential general election approached and in most instances

excelled Alabama's 52 percent. Russell and Macon counties had the lowest incidences of adults voting in the 1980 presidential general election, 43.5 percent and 19.7 percent respectively. The highest percentages of adults voting in the 1980 general election were in Bullock and Wilcox counties with 85.7 percent and 84.5 percent respectively.

Income and Employment

A final determinant of the quality of life involves income and employment. Two definitions of income are widely accepted. The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Commerce Department defines income as total personal income, while the Census Bureau defines income as money income only. With respect to both definitions, the Black Belt counties rank low in per capita income when compared to other Alabama counties as well as the state and nation. While analysis performed by the Census Bureau portrayed the per capita income for the Black Belt counties as significantly increasing from 1979 to 1981, the income of the citizens of the Black Belt remains quite low. The Census Bureau reported that the average per captia money income in 1979 ranged between $3,318 and $4,832 and increased in 1981 to between $3,760 and $5,832. The bureau reported an increase in Alabama's per capita income from $5,892 in 1979 to $6,982 in 1981. This compares to a per capita income of $7,298 for the U.S. in 1980.

In 1979 the median family income of Black Belt residents ranged between $9,766 and $13,821, compared to $16,353 for Alabama and $19,917 for the U S. In 1979 the percentage of Black Belt families with an income below the poverty level ranged from 24.5 percent in Barbour County to 36.7 percent in Lowndes County, compared to 14.8 percent for Alabama and 9.6 percent for the U.S. While the percent below the poverty level has remained high, a steady reduction did occur during the thirty-year period 1950 through 1980.

In 1982 the Black Belt counties experienced high unemployment, ranging from 14.7 percent in Macon County to 22.6 percent in Wilcox County. In general the range was 16 to 20 percent. The 1982 unemployment rate for Alabama was 14.4 percent. With the exceptions of Dallas and Wilcox counties, which experienced increased unemployment, and Marengo County, which saw no change, the Black Belt's unemployment situation improved in 1983. Unemployment rates for 1983 in the Black Belt ranged from 13.1 percent in Barbour County to 20.3 percent in Wilcox County. For the most part unemployment among the Black Belt counties was 14 to 17 percent. Alabama's 1983 unemployment rate improved to 13.5 percent.

The percentage of employed persons working outside their county of residence provides still another indicator of economic growth and stability. Throughout the Black Belt counties the percent who worked outside their county of residence increased from 1960 to 1980. In fact, in Lowndes County the number increased from 19.0 percent in 1960 to 46.7 percent in 1980. In Hale County the number increased from 11.8 percent in 1960 to 37.8 percent in 1980. In Russell County the number remained approximately 59 percent from 1960 to 1980. The very high incidence of citizens who work outside their county of residence is indicative of limited industrial development and weak local economies in the Black Belt.

Conclusions

In summary, while the South has progressed in industrial development and increased economic and social prosperity, many rural areas including the Alabama Black Belt continue to experience poverty, outmigration, and depressed social and economic conditions. Often we, the public, are insensitive and inattentive to the unfavorable and controversial events which necessitate change. The adversities of the Black Belt counties are not exempted from this dictum. Because of a most unfortunate socioeconomic environment, the issues involved in a review of the Black Belt frequently produce limited attention, thereby resulting in even less reflective examination and action. While this article presents facts, the degree of analysis is limited. It is hoped that this article will foster further research into the determinants and consequences of the impoverished social and economic conditions of the Alabama Black Belt. The future of the quality of life in the Black Belt depends to a large extent on the value of the analysis produced and the sincerity with which the results are applied.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1983					1984							
	1982	1983	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
INDUSTRIAL															
SZ55. Bituminous coal production (1,000 net tons)	25,869	23,071	2,004	1,937	2,150	2,044	1,849	2,181	2,434	2,518	2,211	2,327	2,377	2,056	2,590
Natural gas production (1,000,000 cu. ft.)	133,892	126,576	10,541	9,028	10,409	10,453	9,407	10,962	11,264	10,750	11,386	11,920	9,984	10,667	11,898
Cotton consumption (1,000 lbs.)	320,808	360,820	33,557	31,394	30,597	29,370	28,336	28,600	31,542	29,964	27,531	30,038	26,733	23,408	29,670
Crude oil and condensate production (1,000 barrels)	20,011	18,708	1,592	1,435	1,522	1,569	1,499	1,624	1,578	1,590	1,533	1,673	1,583	1,752	1,680
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes (1,000,000 kwh)	21,431	21,020	1,963	1,892	1,818	1,799	1,698	1,827	1,958	1,919	1,983	2,005	2,104	2,039	2,146
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production (1,000 net tons)	5,419	6,166	505	511	559	510	479	532	526	580	571	525	561	534	559
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined[1] ($1,000)	2,011,200	2,760,300	225,200	235,100	272,000	290,900	211,000	228,400	159,700	244,600	174,300	571,700	231,400	210,600	383,400
Residential	847,200	1,288,900	104,600	155,300	136,900	96,700	96,000	98,300	82,200	125,100	104,500	117,500	114,100	105,900	163,200
Nonresidential	660,000	1,020,000	75,300	45,500	107,800	162,600	82,800	112,300	36,300	66,600	47,500	92,500	71,300	60,700	137,900
Public works and utilities	504,000	451,300	45,300	34,300	27,300	31,500	32,200	17,700	41,300	52,900	22,300	361,300	46,400	43,900	84,200
Cement consumption (1,000 net tons)	928	1,086	116	101	108	92	67	68	87	108	100	112	117	102	110
FINANCE															
Savings in savings and loan associations[2] ($1,000,000)	4,598	5,263	5,123	5,158	5,191	5,204	5,263	5,289	5,323	5,389	5,387	5,416	5,492	5,544	5,606
Tax collections ($1,000)															
Total	2,112,332	2,288,165	191,429	219,553	186,326	221,579	154,139	205,929	202,747	264,652	234,338	246,438	198,192	195,871	215,569
Franchise	52,016	52,214	2,253	7,300	4,430	1,980	507	302	1,153	28,642	5,879	1,275	2,504	8,422	2,315
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	197,894	199,587	17,182	17,874	16,536	16,469	16,044	18,417	16,305	15,305	17,523	17,585	17,564	17,504	17,752
Income	765,160	815,838	81,341	81,667	38,160	83,559	53,073	49,125	95,328	130,393	82,889	130,465	81,367	42,840	90,776
Motor fuels	41,505	45,027	4,195	3,383	4,189	5,673	3,906	3,415	4,409	3,448	3,899	4,703	3,735	3,580	5,287
Oil/gas privilege	36,891	89,645	5,298	5,168	5,106	34,115	4,424	5,742	5,924	5,475	5,164	5,571	5,438	5,605	9,662
Oil/gas production	18,510	17,290	1,319	1,331	1,314	1,339	1,146	1,465	1,565	1,442	1,384	1,480	1,437	1,478	1,322
Sales	562,208	609,132	52,961	51,526	51,888	53,500	49,930	67,569	49,655	50,142	55,808	56,985	58,145	57,514	56,957
2.2% Gross receipts	44,104	46,185	61	3,548	10,134	63	6	13,504	152	9	13,448	210	1	13,723	
TVA electric	35,999	31,290	2,831	2,911	2,867		2,867	5,734		2,867	2,867	2,867	2,867	2,867	2,867
Tobacco	70,885	68,915	5,426	5,906	6,030	5,454	6,081	5,485	4,985	5,418	5,734	6,072	6,211	5,980	6,516
Use	67,876	66,519	1,097	643	15,021	1,389	459	15,067	1,975	1,045	15,351	2,019	604	16,868	1,310
Utility	134,597	152,287	11,747	12,838	22,053	11,324	11,079	14,760	15,980	13,171	11,714	9,654	11,225	12,587	14,277
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S.[3] (1967 = 100)															
All items	288.8	298.4	300.3	301.8	302.6	303.1	303.5	305.2	306.6	307.3	308.8	309.7	310.7	311.7	313.0
Food	285.7	291.7	292.2	292.6	292.9	292.5	293.9	299.4	302.1	302.2	302.3	301.4	302.0	303.2	304.8
Housing	314.7	323.1	324.8	326.4	326.8	327.0	327.4	329.2	331.0	331.5	333.2	334.6	336.2	338.1	339.5
Fuel and utilities	350.8	370.3	375.1	376.4	374.4	371.3	370.6	376.0	383.0	380.1	380.9	385.5	390.0	393.9	395.5
Apparel and upkeep	191.8	196.5	197.3	200.4	200.7	200.7	199.3	196.4	196.2	198.8	199.2	198.9	197.4	196.6	200.1
Transportation	291.5	298.4	302.4	303.7	305.0	306.3	306.3	306.0	305.8	306.9	309.6	312.2	313.1	312.9	312.9
Medical care	328.7	357.3	360.0	361.2	362.9	364.9	366.2	369.5	373.2	374.5	375.7	376.8	378.0	380.3	381.9
Energy	416.0	419.3	429.8	429.3	425.1	419.9	418.0	416.7	420.2	418.1	421.3	426.1	428.5	428.3	427.3
Producer Price Index, U.S.[3] (1967 = 100)															
All commodities	299.3	303.1	304.7	305.3	306.0	305.5	306.1	308.0	308.9	311.0	311.3	311.5	311.3	311.9	310.9
Industrial commodities	312.3	315.7	317.3	317.1	318.5	318.3	318.4	319.1	320.6	321.9	322.6	323.2	323.8	323.9	323.5
Index of prices received by Alabama farmers (1977 = 100)	115.8	121.5	126.0	123.0	122.0	129.0	133.0	140.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	134.0	127.0	129.0	121.0
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S. (1967 = $1.000) As measured by															
Consumer prices	346	335	333	331	330	330	329	328	326	325	324	323	322	321	319
Wholesale prices	334	330	328	328	327	327	327	325	324	322	321	321	321	321	322
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT															
Civilian labor force (1,000 workers)	1,713.0	1,744.8	1,746.2	1,745.3	1,774.6	1,774.9	1,732.8	1,754.8	1,759.6	1,765.8	1,777.0	1,777.0	1,794.7	1,797.2	1,786.7
Unemployment	247.0	235.1	214.3	214.5	220.7	223.1	197.0	238.4	227.9	218.0	197.1	185.5	195.1	212.7	196.8
Unemployment rate	14.4	13.5	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.6	11.4	13.6	13.0	12.3	11.1	10.4	10.9	11.8	11.0
Employment	1,466.0	1,509.7	1,531.9	1,530.8	1,553.9	1,551.8	1,535.8	1,516.4	1,531.7	1,547.8	1,579.9	1,591.5	1,599.6	1,584.5	1,589.9
Nonagricultural	1,312.5	1,318.4	1,323.7	1,326.5	1,334.8	1,336.6	1,338.8	1,324.4	1,330.2	1,333.0	1,345.7	1,348.8	1,359.5	1,348.4	1,352.8
Manufacturing	337.8	338.2	344.8	345.5	346.0	346.3	345.6	344.6	345.2	346.6	351.1	351.8	353.7	345.5	351.1
Durable goods	159.1	157.6	160.9	161.1	161.9	162.6	162.2	161.9	162.9	165.4	167.0	167.5	168.4	167.1	168.0
Lumber and wood products	25.1	27.6	28.6	28.7	28.6	28.4	28.3	27.8	28.2	28.8	28.9	29.0	29.0	29.2	29.4
Stone, clay, glass products	8.6	8.7	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.1
Primary metals	29.6	24.8	24.9	24.5	24.6	24.6	24.8	25.2	25.2	26.2	26.2	26.4	26.2	25.8	26.1
Blast furn. and steel works	8.8	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.5	6.1	6.6	7.1	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.6
Iron and steel foundries	11.4	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.5	9.9	10.0	9.6	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.0	9.8	10.0
Fabricated metals	22.8	21.7	21.9	22.0	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.0	22.2	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.5	22.7
Machinery (excl. electrical)		14.8	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.1	16.4	16.3	16.2
Electrical, electronic equip.		21.8	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.3	22.3	22.5	22.9	22.9	23.2	23.3	23.4	23.3	23.3
Transportation	22.6	21.5	21.8	22.0	22.6	22.7	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.9	23.3	23.4	23.9	23.9	24.1
Other durable goods	16.0	17.2	17.7	17.8	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9	17.5	17.7	18.0	17.9	18.0	17.1	17.1
Nondurable goods	178.8	180.6	183.9	184.4	184.1	183.7	183.4	182.7	182.3	181.2	184.1	184.3	185.3	178.4	183.1
Food	26.5	26.9	27.4	27.4	27.5	27.2	27.1	26.9	26.5	26.5	26.7	26.8	27.3	27.3	27.4
Textile mill products	38.8	39.1	39.6	40.2	40.3	40.3	40.4	40.4	40.3	40.4	40.4	40.2	39.8	38.0	39.3
Apparel	53.0	54.3	55.4	56.0	55.5	55.4	55.1	54.4	54.7	53.6	55.7	56.2	56.2	50.9	54.3
Paper and allied products	21.0	21.4	22.1	21.5	21.4	21.4	21.3	21.3	21.1	20.8	21.2	21.0	21.5	21.6	21.4
Printing and publishing	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.7
Chemicals and allied products	13.1	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.9	12.0	12.0	11.9
Rubber products	13.8	14.6	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.7	15.9	15.9
Other nondurable goods	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
Nonmanufacturing	974.7	980.1	978.9	981.0	988.8	990.3	993.2	979.8	985.0	986.4	994.6	997.0	1,005.8	1,002.9	1,001.7
Mining and quarrying	16.2	13.6	13.6	12.9	13.3	13.6	13.5	13.1	13.8	13.7	13.9	14.0	14.2	14.2	14.3
Bituminous coal mining	12.1	10.3	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.4	9.5	9.1	9.8	9.6	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
Contract construction	56.8	59.4	62.6	62.7	62.6	63.0	62.4	60.1	60.7	60.4	62.6	63.3	66.1	66.7	66.6
Trans., comm., and utilities	71.1	69.7	64.6	70.7	71.3	70.9	71.1	70.6	71.3	71.6	71.4	71.9	72.7	72.0	72.5
Trade	267.4	271.0	273.0	273.7	275.5	278.0	282.1	273.9	272.9	274.1	277.5	278.8	280.9	281.8	284.9
Wholesale	70.0	69.7	70.3	70.4	70.6	70.8	70.7	70.8	71.2	71.3	71.6	71.7	71.6	72.1	72.1
Retail	197.4	201.3	202.7	203.3	204.9	207.2	211.4	203.1	201.7	202.8	205.9	207.1	209.3	209.7	212.8
Finance, insurance, real estate	58.8	59.4	60.2	59.8	59.6	59.6	59.6	59.8	60.0	60.3	60.6	61.1	61.7	62.2	62.1
Service and miscellaneous	214.4	217.8	219.8	219.7	219.6	218.6	218.3	216.3	218.3	219.2	220.4	220.0	219.3	218.3	218.5
Government	290.1	289.2	285.1	281.5	286.9	286.6	286.2	286.0	288.0	287.1	288.2	287.9	290.9	287.5	282.8
Federal	65.1	64.6	65.4	64.9	64.3	64.1	64.0	63.9	63.7	63.6	63.9	64.2	64.6	64.8	65.1
State and local	224.9	224.6	219.7	216.6	222.6	222.5	222.2	222.1	224.3	223.5	224.3	223.7	226.3	222.7	217.7

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983					1984							
	1982	1983	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service *(number)*															
Job applications	176,752	207,309	19,505	17,884	14,485	14,784	11,998	17,938	16,014	16,083	14,672	17,512	18,528	20,564	20,649
Nonagricultural placements	66,900	91,100	10,484	7,499	7,117	6,071	5,114	5,741	5,509	6,477	7,082	7,314	9,582	14,871	14,203
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims *(number)*	632,290	428,181	29,803	24,506	27,873	26,728	35,738	75,004	29,677	28,150	24,214	25,009	23,457	50,560	37,376
Payments *($1,000)*	233,984	191,868	15,186	13,556	11,656	12,540	13,999	18,452	15,901	15,566	11,949	13,048	12,192	13,536	15,564
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)*															
Autauga	15,080	15,780	15,590	15,610	15,710	15,680	15,460	15,530	15,420	15,460	15,600	15,560	15,670	15,570	15,590
	15.0	14.1	11.5	11.8	11.6	11.7	10.8	12.7	11.3	10.5	9.7	8.9	8.8	9.1	8.6
Baldwin	33,390	33,830	34,040	33,640	33,970	33,950	33,760	34,310	34,670	34,600	34,300	33,850	34,510	35,050	34,450
	12.1	12.3	11.3	11.3	11.0	11.3	11.8	14.0	13.7	12.6	10.3	8.8	9.0	10.5	9.4
Barbour	11,510	11,980	12,130	12,040	12,090	11,800	11,520	11,610	11,660	11,580	11,920	12,030	12,040	12,010	11,990
	16.2	13.1	12.8	11.1	10.9	10.9	10.8	13.0	12.2	10.2	9.6	9.1	9.6	10.8	10.1
Bibb	5,670	5,940	5,620	5,820	5,770	5,770	5,690	6,040	5,790	5,990	5,920	5,950	6,000	5,950	5,940
	22.8	19.6	16.2	17.9	15.0	15.4	18.0	25.3	20.0	19.6	19.1	16.8	15.1	15.6	18.2
Blount	14,050	13,520	13,440	13,510	13,730	13,130	12,890	12,870	13,020	13,200	13,290	13,360	13,370	13,390	13,440
	19.9	16.1	16.0	15.2	14.2	14.7	14.0	17.1	16.8	21.0	13.6	11.6	11.7	13.0	11.5
Bullock	4,480	4,530	4,720	4,770	4,820	4,660	4,410	4,230	4,250	4,250	4,390	4,510	4,590	4,600	4,880
	18.3	17.2	18.4	15.0	14.3	14.9	15.2	16.1	14.1	13.3	11.6	11.0	14.5	17.5	20.9
Butler	9,960	9,900	9,900	9,910	10,250	9,940	9,720	9,900	9,770	9,810	9,830	9,900	9,960	10,020	9,960
	20.3	17.3	15.9	14.0	15.2	13.3	12.0	16.7	15.5	15.1	13.2	12.6	13.9	15.2	14.7
Calhoun	45,620	46,560	46,910	46,350	46,850	46,310	46,520	47,170	47,220	47,470	47,820	47,820	48,380	49,370	49,050
	15.1	13.1	12.0	10.9	11.5	10.8	11.3	12.9	12.2	11.7	10.0	9.5	9.9	13.2	11.4
Chambers	16,280	16,920	17,230	16,790	17,070	16,880	16,760	16,760	16,850	16,950	17,050	17,160	17,220	17,280	16,960
	11.3	9.8	9.7	7.8	8.7	8.3	7.8	8.8	9.3	8.8	8.9	9.9	10.1	11.1	9.3
Cherokee	11,390	11,400	10,910	11,600	11,770	11,430	10,860	11,090	11,110	11,120	11,680	11,640	11,040	11,590	12,080
	14.8	15.4	17.4	9.7	13.4	10.2	11.1	14.5	17.4	20.8	11.3	11.2	18.8	18.5	8.9
Chilton	13,450	15,420	15,650	15,580	15,820	15,640	15,360	15,490	15,540	15,650	15,710	15,880	16,060	15,930	15,940
	15.6	13.3	11.5	10.9	10.3	10.7	10.5	12.7	11.7	11.7	11.1	10.4	10.7	11.6	11.6
Choctaw	5,280	5,560	5,570	5,430	5,510	5,440	5,500	5,610	5,650	5,660	5,650	5,670	5,630	5,790	5,630
	15.3	15.2	14.7	12.9	12.6	11.4	12.8	15.2	16.1	15.9	13.8	14.7	13.8	18.4	14.6
Clarke	10,450	10,810	10,800	10,580	10,620	10,580	10,560	10,870	10,680	10,780	10,640	10,650	10,720	10,970	10,700
	15.9	16.2	14.6	13.4	13.2	13.6	13.8	15.9	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.7	12.8	15.2	13.3
Clay	7,400	7,520	7,470	7,590	7,690	7,670	7,510	7,650	7,670	7,840	7,950	7,930	7,890	7,860	7,950
	13.5	13.8	12.9	11.8	11.3	11.3	10.7	12.3	11.8	10.8	9.8	10.3	10.7	11.2	11.3
Cleburne	5,080	5,210	5,050	5,290	5,280	5,190	5,160	5,090	5,100	5,130	5,150	5,120	5,280	5,500	5,190
	14.5	12.5	9.6	10.0	9.6	9.7	9.7	11.2	10.9	10.8	8.7	8.4	9.9	14.0	9.8
Coffee	19,410	20,040	20,320	20,440	20,340	20,020	19,700	19,430	20,030	20,030	20,120	20,240	20,160	20,180	20,050
	11.8	10.8	9.8	8.8	8.5	8.9	9.6	10.2	10.5	9.8	8.1	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.2
Colbert	23,620	24,050	24,040	23,600	23,710	23,500	23,520	23,760	24,310	24,140	24,310	23,880	24,060	24,020	23,910
	19.0	18.5	17.4	16.4	15.8	15.3	15.5	19.0	20.1	18.3	17.8	16.0	16.2	17.1	15.8
Conecuh	6,820	7,010	7,040	7,100	7,060	6,970	7,120	7,050	7,010	7,130	7,260	7,370	7,360	7,280	7,160
	13.9	12.7	11.1	12.6	11.7	12.3	13.7	13.7	14.1	12.6	11.1	10.0	10.6	11.5	9.7
Coosa	5,630	5,570	5,480	5,590	5,610	5,600	5,520	5,510	5,520	5,460	5,610	5,580	5,500	5,540	5,620
	10.8	10.3	9.5	8.1	7.7	8.2	7.8	9.0	8.8	7.8	7.5	6.5	7.9	7.8	8.4
Covington	15,630	16,340	16,690	16,590	16,580	16,500	16,160	16,280	16,570	16,360	16,370	16,370	16,310	16,290	16,380
	13.5	12.3	12.3	10.9	10.3	11.1	11.3	12.8	13.4	11.6	10.1	9.0	9.2	10.8	9.7
Crenshaw	6,830	7,220	7,340	7,570	7,640	7,250	6,820	6,750	6,810	6,920	7,170	7,440	7,220	7,100	7,210
	13.8	12.1	10.8	9.9	8.6	8.3	8.6	12.5	11.9	12.7	10.3	10.6	10.0	11.0	10.1
Cullman	27,400	28,710	28,570	29,050	29,480	28,830	28,050	28,430	28,700	29,070	29,160	29,300	29,220	29,070	29,740
	17.2	14.7	12.5	11.9	11.1	10.9	10.7	14.2	14.6	12.9	10.6	9.6	10.1	11.1	12.3
Dale	12,410	12,980	12,950	12,760	13,110	12,890	12,630	12,760	12,780	12,980	12,980	13,080	13,040	13,180	13,010
	13.1	13.7	12.6	11.6	11.8	12.1	11.5	12.8	13.3	13.7	11.4	11.0	11.0	13.4	11.1
Dallas	23,870	23,640	23,830	23,440	23,540	23,370	22,910	23,360	23,400	23,260	23,480	23,220	23,700	23,780	23,920
	17.3	17.5	16.3	15.5	15.2	15.3	14.7	17.0	16.6	15.6	15.5	14.3	15.2	16.5	17.2
DeKalb	28,460	29,950	30,580	30,100	30,200	29,530	28,890	29,440	29,310	29,580	30,100	30,290	30,670	31,270	30,900
	13.4	13.8	12.0	12.1	13.0	12.3	11.6	14.5	12.7	12.0	10.8	10.1	10.6	11.4	9.9
Elmore	19,880	20,770	21,020	20,680	20,780	20,570	20,250	20,170	20,220	20,390	20,570	20,670	20,860	20,700	20,720
	13.3	12.2	11.7	10.4	10.1	9.5	8.4	9.6	9.1	8.8	8.0	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.5
Escambia	16,470	17,430	17,360	17,340	17,360	17,410	17,440	17,560	17,610	17,420	17,610	17,680	17,770	17,660	17,520
	13.2	12.6	12.4	11.3	11.3	12.1	12.6	14.3	13.5	11.8	11.3	11.3	10.8	11.4	10.6
Etowah	42,720	42,450	42,350	41,440	41,890	41,720	41,370	41,660	41,700	41,500	41,810	41,700	42,230	42,670	42,900
	20.5	17.5	15.3	14.0	14.0	14.2	13.5	15.8	15.3	14.3	13.4	11.7	11.6	13.6	13.3
Fayette	9,830	10,170	10,100	10,330	10,450	10,310	10,160	10,160	10,170	10,340	10,490	10,550	10,540	10,530	10,580
	11.4	11.7	10.9	10.7	9.6	9.4	9.7	10.5	9.7	9.9	8.9	8.1	8.7	9.8	10.3
Franklin	13,310	14,200	14,530	14,500	14,440	14,320	14,010	15,060	15,190	15,390	14,930	14,910	14,830	15,100	14,760
	18.4	18.2	15.9	15.9	15.5	16.6	16.6	25.7	23.0	22.1	18.3	17.2	15.9	21.6	17.9
Geneva	10,800	11,400	11,450	11,570	11,950	11,600	11,470	11,330	11,320	11,430	11,670	11,830	11,940	11,760	11,870
	11.4	10.5	9.9	8.5	8.3	8.3	9.4	10.2	9.4	8.9	8.4	7.7	7.5	9.8	7.3
Greene	4,560	4,610	4,510	4,560	4,590	4,480	4,420	4,610	4,700	4,640	4,780	4,730	4,680	4,690	4,720
	17.0	16.7	14.1	13.3	12.7	13.5	15.4	21.5	21.4	17.7	16.8	14.6	15.5	16.4	16.5
Hale	4,980	5,310	5,260	5,360	5,460	5,340	5,270	5,380	5,310	5,310	5,450	5,440	5,510	5,570	5,450
	20.7	16.6	13.5	13.0	12.8	14.8	18.2	22.6	19.6	17.9	16.8	15.0	16.3	21.2	17.8
Henry	7,010	7,260	7,260	7,480	7,670	7,410	7,140	7,020	7,100	7,050	7,390	7,540	7,350	7,240	7,310
	12.2	11.2	10.7	10.0	9.1	9.3	9.4	11.5	10.2	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.8	10.6	9.9
Houston	39,040	40,070	40,360	40,720	41,050	40,160	39,630	39,610	39,840	40,080	40,770	41,060	41,290	41,010	40,490
	10.0	10.8	10.5	10.0	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.4	9.4	8.9	8.6	8.7	8.7	10.3	8.3
Jackson	21,080	20,800	20,380	20,690	20,980	20,320	19,980	19,810	19,930	19,660	19,640	19,440	19,200	19,940	19,140
	20.4	22.0	17.6	18.8	19.5	19.0	20.7	22.0	21.8	19.3	16.4	14.5	15.7	22.0	16.1
Jefferson	306,120	310,270	310,460	308,350	307,640	305,340	303,270	306,020	305,750	308,780	310,420	309,110	313,030	313,360	309,560
	13.8	12.8	11.8	11.6	10.8	10.7	10.1	11.6	10.7	10.9	9.9	9.2	9.4	9.8	9.5
Lamar	8,330	8,820	8,670	8,780	8,960	8,900	8,730	8,830	8,940	8,980	9,100	9,060	9,270	9,180	9,090
	13.5	9.8	8.7	8.2	7.9	8.4	7.3	8.9	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.2	8.6	9.2	7.7
Lauderdale	34,260	34,810	34,840	34,370	34,610	34,220	34,350	34,800	35,380	35,280	34,890	34,530	34,910	35,120	35,040
	17.5	16.9	15.8	15.2	14.8	14.0	14.5	18.3	18.8	17.4	15.4	14.2	14.7	16.2	15.1
Lawrence	14,310	14,490	14,140	13,910	13,990	13,680	13,380	13,650	13,720	13,660	13,870	13,880	13,730	13,790	13,520
	18.9	18.7	16.8	16.2	15.7	16.0	16.9	19.1	18.9	16.8	16.3	15.5	14.4	15.3	13.8
Lee	34,330	36,140	36,600	36,370	37,120	36,770	35,890	36,440	36,770	36,650	37,140	37,420	37,650	36,470	36,560
	9.4	8.4	8.0	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.4	6.6	6.2	7.8	7.8	7.7
Limestone	22,840	23,940	24,030	24,200	24,160	24,040	23,780	24,290	24,430	24,300	24,780	24,770	24,940	24,900	25,340
	13.6	11.0	8.9	9.0	8.6	9.0	8.5	11.2	11.1	9.7	9.6	8.5	8.5	9.0	9.3
Lowndes	4,960	5,320	5,400	5,490	5,560	5,420	5,290	5,260	5,270	5,180	5,390	5,360	5,300	5,290	5,340
	19.2	17.6	18.1	16.0	16.0	14.0	14.3	19.3	18.3	17.7	19.7	17.7	18.6	20.3	19.9
Macon	7,820	8,000	8,160	8,030	8,090	7,800	7,760	7,810	7,810	7,780	7,930	8,000	8,360	8,220	8,220
	14.9	13.5	14.6	11.4	11.2	11.1	11.4	12.7	11.9	10.6	10.5	9.6	13.9	14.3	14.2
Madison	94,570	100,410	102,590	102,490	103,030	102,090	100,970	102,220	102,160	104,170	104,170	104,860	105,950	104,940	106,220
	10.7	9.2	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.2	7.7	9.7	9.0	9.8	7.9	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.4
Marengo	9,690	9,920	9,840	9,790	9,860	9,790	9,640	9,860	9,800	9,970	9,960	9,960	10,260	10,430	10,120
	15.4	15.4	13.4	12.2	11.7	12.1	12.9	15.0	14.2	15.0	12.7	11.7	12.7	15.6	12.2
Marion	13,300	13,760	13,810	13,490	13,500	13,580	13,250	13,550	13,490	13,490	13,420	13,320	13,390	13,490	13,480
	18.3	19.4	17.4	16.2	16.1	17.7	15.6	18.6	17.6	16.4	14.2	12.3	11.6	13.9	15.3
Marshall	33,020	34,920	35,030	35,200	35,260	35,020	34,960	35,930	36,000	35,470	35,910	35,770	36,400	38,390	36,520
	14.8	13.0	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.9	11.2	14.4	14.0	11.8	11.0	9.6	10.5	15.8	10.3
Mobile	158,750	163,820	167,360	163,240	163,950	161,260	158,890	163,040	163,710	164,260	164,740	164,340	167,090	167,440	166,180
	14.0	15.9	16.2	15.1	14.3	13.3	12.9	15.9	15.1	14.5	13.3	12.8	12.7	12.9	12.7

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983					1984							
	1982	1983	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT															
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)* —continued															
Monroe	10,380	10,770	10,860	10,820	10,950	10,980	10,900	10,940	10,950	10,900	11,010	10,840	11,060	11,020	11,050
	14.2	12.6	11.4	10.9	11.7	12.6	12.4	15.6	14.9	13.4	12.6	10.1	12.5	12.7	12.1
Montgomery	88,090	92,650	93,700	93,230	94,230	93,970	92,810	92,730	93,380	93,460	94,480	94,540	96,350	95,770	95,700
	11.1	10.6	10.0	9.8	10.0	10.0	9.3	10.7	10.6	9.6	9.0	8.4	9.4	9.7	9.0
Morgan	37,450	37,990	38,190	37,970	37,960	37,520	37,080	37,630	37,490	37,810	38,060	38,070	38,590	38,390	37,870
	16.1	14.5	13.6	13.0	12.8	12.4	11.5	14.5	13.6	13.7	12.4	11.6	12.0	12.5	11.5
Perry	5,690	5,860	5,940	5,910	5,950	5,870	5,780	5,840	5,690	5,660	5,730	5,780	5,910	5,860	5,900
	15.7	14.8	13.6	11.6	11.2	15.7	19.2	22.4	15.1	12.1	10.8	10.0	0.4	12.5	12.2
Pickens	7,550	7,630	7,620	7,590	7,650	7,510	7,600	7,500	7,540	7,450	7,590	7,730	7,790	7,700	7,670
	19.7	17.7	15.7	14.4	14.2	13.3	16.3	17.9	17.3	15.8	15.2	16.4	15.2	15.7	15.3
Pike	13,260	13,770	13,660	13,710	14,370	13,890	12,960	13,360	13,420	13,590	13,680	13,970	13,890	13,620	13,500
	13.4	13.7	13.3	11.9	10.6	10.8	11.9	12.0	11.8	12.0	9.6	8.9	9.9	10.6	10.5
Randolph	9,710	9,170	9,040	8,880	9,310	9,050	8,950	8,890	8,830	8,780	9,320	8,880	8,650	9,240	8,830
	21.7	17.8	16.4	12.7	12.1	12.7	13.8	18.0	16.2	15.9	13.1	12.9	14.0	22.0	16.9
Russell	17,990	18,320	18,510	18,080	18,230	18,190	18,210	19,480	18,890	18,560	18,790	18,930	20,370	19,660	19,290
	16.7	13.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.2	11.5	17.9	14.3	12.1	11.8	11.9	17.0	13.7	11.1
St. Clair	18,980	19,350	19,000	19,090	19,070	19,100	19,280	19,310	19,470	19,030	19,280	19,110	19,330	19,280	19,210
	14.7	14.2	11.6	12.4	11.7	12.4	13.2	14.0	13.9	11.3	10.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.5
Shelby	29,940	30,510	30,580	30,380	30,570	30,230	30,220	30,890	30,650	30,300	30,740	30,910	31,490	31,510	30,920
	13.0	12.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.9	10.9	13.6	12.1	10.3	10.1	10.3	11.0	11.4	10.5
Sumter	6,810	6,990	7,120	6,900	7,100	7,110	6,850	7,060	7,040	7,170	7,220	7,180	7,360	7,330	7,300
	17.7	14.3	13.7	10.6	11.1	11.8	9.9	12.2	11.1	12.0	13.3	10.1	13.2	13.5	12.7
Talladega	30,840	32,030	32,380	32,240	32,440	31,670	31,300	31,730	31,670	31,920	32,210	31,900	32,680	32,130	32,380
	19.2	17.1	16.2	14.8	14.2	13.5	13.0	15.0	14.6	14.7	14.5	13.5	15.1	15.0	16.2
Tallapoosa	16,900	16,580	16,780	16,510	16,660	16,560	16,620	16,850	16,970	17,080	17,220	17,160	17,620	17,600	17,620
	13.5	12.2	12.0	9.8	10.3	9.6	9.9	10.6	10.2	9.8	8.7	8.0	9.3	9.7	10.3
Tuscaloosa	55,530	56,520	56,210	55,900	56,800	56,540	56,400	56,910	57,500	58,020	58,090	58,180	57,710	57,230	57,660
	12.6	12.5	12.1	10.9	10.9	10.5	10.3	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.7	10.3	10.1	10.3	10.2
Walker	31,760	32,980	32,860	32,630	33,300	32,910	33,020	33,440	33,350	33,330	32,570	32,520	32,570	32,700	32,390
	15.0	16.1	14.8	14.6	15.7	15.2	15.6	17.3	16.3	15.5	12.1	11.7	10.9	11.6	11.5
Washington	6,200	6,380	6,420	6,530	6,500	6,340	6,210	6,330	6,400	6,550	6,510	6,770	6,610	6,770	6,540
	16.9	20.0	18.6	17.5	16.4	15.8	15.7	17.8	18.1	18.0	16.1	18.5	17.2	21.6	18.3
Wilcox	6,380	5,860	5,500	5,590	5,680	5,490	5,320	5,340	5,380	5,230	5,340	5,410	5,420	5,360	5,300
	18.7	20.3	18.4	18.3	18.1	17.6	17.1	18.8	18.0	17.2	16.1	16.0	16.6	18.0	16.4
Winston	8,480	9,150	9,280	9,170	9,290	9,170	8,960	9,570	9,850	9,450	9,450	9,500	9,400	9,310	9,260
	22.5	18.6	16.3	14.8	15.3	16.2	16.5	23.4	25.8	20.0	17.9	18.4	16.2	17.4	17.5
TRADE															
Foreign, through Port of Mobile															
Imports															
Value *($1,000)*	551,093	643,182	70,692	22,392	85,365	50,213	46,894	51,145	40,064	53,684	72,261	83,186	44,217	90,034	54,364
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	8,142	6,288	819	430	826	757	423	583	508	232	718	905	769	988	1,019
Exports															
Value *($1,000)*	1,222,158	788,611	33,212	51,981	64,610	81,993	64,282	69,760	39,449	46,631	32,516	60,111	47,488	31,808	44,217
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	14,577	9,496	344	524	547	546	868	1,731	1,283	1,667	2,096	1,930	1,915	1,292	2,293
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile[4] *(1,000 tons)*	39,655	34,916	3,013	2,812	2,948	3,118	2,653	3,017	2,522	3,015	3,110	3,266	3,413	3,307	3,549
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	22,680	23,017	2,571	2,547	1,798	1,588	1,884	2,494	2,093	1,793	1,604	1,607	1,968	2,445	2,384
Gasoline sales[5] *(1,000 gallons)*	1,840,396	1,861,406	165,359	153,217	153,174	148,354	168,460	150,958	141,858	162,105	162,606	162,470	161,968	163,798	168,845
New passenger car registrations[6] *(number)*	100,717	122,393	10,012	11,288	10,378	10,295	11,751	10,453	11,116	11,051	11,616	13,890	12,648	12,806	12,579
Taxable retail sales by kind of business, state totals[7] *($1,000,000)*															
Food								289	281	305	305	301	304	313	291
General stores with food and gas								13	12	14	15	15	15	15	14
General merchandise								157	144	176	191	191	196	176	189
Apparel								35	34	46	52	45	47	40	46
Furniture, furnishings, etc								41	40	44	43	44	45	46	44
Automotive								211	234	275	259	279	286	266	259
Gasoline service stations								22	22	25	25	26	25	26	23
Lumber and building materials								55	61	73	77	81	82	79	77
Hardware and farm implements								23	29	37	39	40	40	37	37
Eating places								95	97	112	102	104	106	109	111
Drug stores								22	21	21	21	24	25	19	19
All other retail								153	156	173	175	176	180	167	174
Total sales by retail concerns								1,115	1,130	1,303	1,304	1,326	1,351	1,293	1,285
Nonretail and unclassified concerns								190	187	213	216	228	227	216	212
Total all sales at retail								1,305	1,317	1,516	1,520	1,554	1,578	1,509	1,498
Taxable retail sales, Metropolitan Statistical Areas and counties[7] *($1,000)*															
MSAs															
Anniston								36,218	36,363	42,586	42,241	43,079	43,640	41,400	42,000
Birmingham								347,386	363,473	421,290	417,003	427,410	431,458	414,383	415,646
Dothan								43,786	47,674	53,482	52,859	55,980	57,172	53,300	51,979
Florence								42,222	43,478	50,264	51,024	51,483	52,209	50,634	49,997
Gadsden								32,540	32,361	37,607	38,355	38,946	39,409	41,526	40,344
Huntsville								74,337	77,028	85,487	85,634	87,800	88,830	85,959	88,077
Mobile								149,186	150,636	173,431	177,616	179,142	186,094	178,186	161,081
Montgomery								99,258	102,791	116,563	117,030	122,638	124,621	119,043	116,276
Tuscaloosa								47,063	45,373	51,856	50,659	52,053	53,301	50,549	58,623
Counties															
Autauga								6,750	6,981	7,965	8,236	8,135	8,430	8,378	8,081
Baldwin								22,302	24,507	28,068	28,680	30,017	30,879	30,900	29,531
Barbour								6,143	4,784	5,918	5,880	6,098	6,217	6,102	6,470
Bibb								2,797	2,970	3,282	3,314	3,674	3,711	3,266	3,593
Blount								6,051	6,128	6,974	7,144	7,736	7,884	7,397	7,972
Bullock								2,107	2,142	2,143	2,123	1,975	1,993	1,984	2,005
Butler								5,521	4,604	5,446	5,552	5,362	5,466	5,648	5,594
Calhoun								36,218	36,363	42,586	42,241	43,079	43,640	41,400	42,000
Chambers								8,075	7,884	9,212	9,071	9,376	8,911	9,188	8,418
Cherokee								3,446	3,634	3,913	4,128	4,340	4,418	3,836	4,116
Chilton								6,947	7,004	8,129	8,266	8,492	8,630	7,969	8,203
Choctaw								2,995	2,759	3,203	3,039	2,917	2,998	2,870	3,065
Clarke								6,232	7,229	8,280	8,615	7,847	7,939	7,529	7,645
Clay								1,884	1,877	2,294	2,220	2,239	2,270	2,159	2,248
Cleburne								1,686	1,611	1,936	1,951	1,982	1,997	2,082	1,853
Coffee								13,469	14,295	16,957	16,213	16,486	16,268	14,864	14,404

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983					1984							
	1982	1983	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
TRADE—CONTINUED															
Taxable retail sales MSAs and counties—continued															
Counties—continued															
Colbert								17,564	18,128	20,907	21,049	21,665	22,002	21,309	20,852
Conecuh								2,505	2,723	3,441	3,132	3,069	3,034	2,895	2,700
Coosa								619	525	723	714	696	671	731	741
Covington								9,580	10,588	12,081	11,535	11,599	11,782	11,163	11,203
Crenshaw								2,377	2,302	2,509	2,536	2,516	2,574	2,447	2,298
Cullman								15,925	16,817	19,753	19,999	20,179	20,924	19,907	19,254
Dale								7,035	7,619	8,766	8,492	8,842	8,984	8,699	8,184
Dallas								14,219	14,086	16,687	16,507	17,189	17,249	16,079	15,727
DeKalb								13,348	13,021	13,813	14,701	15,505	15,819	14,913	15,327
Elmore								7,196	7,516	8,428	8,221	8,863	9,040	8,545	8,503
Escambia								9,860	10,622	12,087	12,448	11,723	11,892	11,348	11,272
Etowah								32,540	32,361	37,607	38,355	38,946	39,409	41,526	40,344
Fayette								4,728	4,969	5,815	5,397	5,681	5,751	4,951	5,182
Franklin								6,713	7,347	8,516	8,423	8,423	8,611	8,074	7,705
Geneva								10,841	11,558	11,995	12,075	12,439	12,486	11,578	11,789
Greene								1,267	1,281	1,564	1,492	1,612	1,633	2,054	1,564
Hale								2,239	2,395	2,767	2,573	2,805	2,850	2,524	2,745
Henry								2,323	2,464	3,030	3,011	2,953	2,999	2,936	2,930
Houston								36,751	40,055	44,716	44,367	47,138	48,188	44,601	43,795
Jackson								9,259	9,452	10,927	10,911	11,209	11,620	11,050	11,446
Jefferson								294,780	309,846	360,084	355,135	360,813	364,208	350,750	352,510
Lamar								2,691	2,901	3,797	3,127	3,422	3,462	3,076	3,027
Lauderdale								24,658	25,350	29,357	29,975	29,818	30,207	29,325	29,145
Lawrence								3,647	3,475	4,135	4,212	4,585	4,662	4,073	4,314
Lee								24,947	24,852	28,202	28,126	29,183	29,552	27,918	27,171
Limestone								11,168	11,418	13,548	13,572	14,077	14,350	13,048	13,663
Lowndes								1,271	1,207	1,326	1,371	1,457	1,470	1,322	1,343
Macon								3,851	3,179	3,476	3,650	3,753	3,830	3,736	4,163
Madison								74,337	77,028	85,487	85,634	87,800	88,830	85,959	88,077
Marengo								5,549	5,112	5,667	5,439	5,509	5,447	5,185	5,434
Marion								6,860	7,017	8,208	7,468	7,911	8,106	7,772	7,433
Marshall								22,754	23,968	27,928	28,111	29,284	29,688	28,033	28,440
Mobile								126,884	126,129	145,363	148,936	149,125	155,215	147,286	131,550
Monroe								6,164	6,518	8,373	7,645	7,711	7,941	7,684	6,381
Montgomery								85,312	88,294	100,170	100,573	105,640	107,151	102,120	99,692
Morgan								30,390	31,377	36,643	37,597	38,498	39,070	36,264	37,749
Perry								1,631	1,870	2,145	2,027	2,146	2,162	2,074	2,283
Pickens								2,964	2,925	3,487	3,624	3,636	3,683	3,427	3,538
Pike								6,438	6,699	7,666	7,337	7,508	7,446	7,075	7,440
Randolph								5,135	4,639	4,898	4,440	4,784	4,858	4,497	4,346
Russell								8,176	8,978	9,997	9,932	10,239	10,408	10,144	10,281
St. Clair								8,317	9,182	10,380	9,955	10,749	10,928	10,001	9,981
Shelby								17,848	17,886	21,005	20,762	22,707	22,896	21,774	20,652
Sumter								2,247	2,163	2,866	2,443	2,410	2,508	2,506	2,540
Talladega								17,279	17,185	19,180	20,283	22,775	21,261	20,120	19,309
Tallapoosa								9,468	9,637	10,653	11,074	11,406	11,588	10,604	10,224
Tuscaloosa								47,063	45,373	51,856	50,659	52,053	53,301	50,549	58,623
Walker								20,390	20,431	22,847	23,987	25,405	25,542	24,461	24,531
Washington								1,575	1,619	1,720	1,825	1,930	1,962	1,267	1,518
Wilcox								2,935	2,092	2,419	2,249	3,045	3,097	2,952	2,255
Winston								4,972	5,188	6,009	6,159	6,415	6,434	5,715	5,794
Statewide								84,042	63,297	74,524	79,815	75,430	77,895	74,926	75,332
BUILDING PERMITS															
Alabama															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	712,696	1,079,085	120,559	96,165	86,676	162,881	76,349	65,449	75,497	99,328	193,079	97,366	115,116	99,776	147,117
Residential	237,082	449,881	47,066	34,835	43,819	42,063	27,533	24,927	38,376	39,447	46,811	38,102	43,568	36,909	42,389
Nonresidential	300,343	366,127	35,834	29,816	19,695	95,659	33,868	22,711	21,524	32,351	130,709	42,724	53,582	44,597	79,263
In selected cities															
Anniston															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	5,965	8,848	895	794	818	718	693	595	644	790	788	915	842	833	749
Residential	2,700	3,593	309	263	268	261	231	247	255	317	317	406	324	322	317
Nonresidential	442	932	124	106	109	101	81	75	93	126	113	117	139	104	92
Birmingham															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	109,048	213,343	14,059	30,767	9,844	83,104	6,605	5,689	4,413	8,945	7,619	5,562	8,258	8,169	14,214
Residential	13,918	31,921	1,317	2,529	4,275	904	885	1,100	1,574	2,100	2,551	814	1,299	763	1,285
Nonresidential	61,839	108,370	7,416	12,498	767	70,397	526	985	530	1,071	90	768	2,963	2,369	1,967
Decatur															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	8,551	14,095	1,367	1,424	1,278	1,004	789	912	1,111	1,075	1,106	1,520	1,342	1,909	2,170
Residential	2,937	7,340	918	995	862	663	267	673	845	739	739	1,096	925	1,080	1,357
Nonresidential	3,812	2,156	155	156	140	116	32	73	81	115	139	172	171	355	429
Dothan															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	28,821	18,943	1,340	700	3,402	2,191	2,952	1,075	1,064	1,568	1,353	1,326	1,514	901	1,599
Residential	5,626	7,760	366	316	2,412	805	351	444	631	685	695	448	759	182	226
Nonresidential	9,720	6,339	319	40	367	1,127	2,146	457	100	452	518	238	257	125	641
Gadsden															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	10,429	13,596	354	549	550	1,389	1,189	656	530	214	565	1,351	865	166	260
Residential	1,517	2,006	282	224	329	75	61	110	57	92	347	976	219	26	74
Nonresidential	3,271	3,912	2	271	201	1,283	1,104	24	452	102	163	122	493	101	143
Huntsville															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	58,302	122,759	17,391	8,823	20,834	9,742	6,919	6,115	16,817	12,836	8,111	13,997	13,853	14,007	14,163
Residential	18,311	51,350	7,145	2,171	10,578	1,598	1,939	2,203	7,732	4,874	4,843	3,753	6,032	3,331	6,078
Nonresidential	14,238	45,128	6,403	5,166	3,320	5,238	3,809	2,270	5,358	7,169	2,413	8,366	5,970	9,394	6,045
Mobile															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	83,675	109,508	13,411	5,161	6,093	8,760	10,475	3,718	5,366	17,080	116,254	6,250	36,928	6,707	4,020
Residential	19,544	38,261	1,810	1,127	990	1,586	7,313	984	1,470	1,424	2,639	2,009	6,935	3,208	1,071
Nonresidential	43,701	49,663	10,337	1,465	2,188	5,173	2,058	1,419	2,488	4,160	112,221	3,331	28,665	2,127	1,153

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983					1984							
	1982	1983	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
BUILDING ACTIVITY —CONTINUED															
Montgomery															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	52,352	76,984	6,829	6,315	6,326	5,764	5,127	14,164	5,100	6,477	6,330	6,994	7,007	8,192	8,070
Residential	15,363	32,619	2,354	2,081	2,108	2,278	1,874	2,436	2,131	2,462	2,509	2,493	2,528	3,504	3,361
Nonresidential	22,178	28,264	2,762	2,652	2,596	2,170	1,856	9,934	1,882	2,727	2,496	3,043	3,059	3,719	3,896
Quad-Cities[10]															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	18,563	12,978	1,361	1,250	852	1,360	699	2,642	1,410	4,666	2,443	4,910	1,260	2,227	1,799
Residential	7,481	6,391	513	623	428	874	166	480	754	1,298	700	792	323	633	721
Nonresidential	5,722	3,506	705	380	337	123	100	207	585	3,031	1,079	3,887	614	1,265	160
Selma															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	2,757	4,197	103	901	67	98	356	1,826	213	219	1,019	356	158	994	184
Residential	987	357	20	.....	.....	65	20	.....	.....	24	87	82	117	148	75
Nonresidential	1,739	798	20	18	30	1	.....	3	133	36	717	35	.....	7	.....
Tuscaloosa															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	21,418	30,159	3,340	3,777	1,814	1,809	613	1,505	2,647	3,328	1,804	4,323	4,183	1,719	2,805
Residential	6,592	14,849	1,194	1,378	396	717	407	1,032	1,163	2,097	988	2,153	1,284	737	1,634
Nonresidential	8,408	6,227	1,221	711	527	599	3	132	929	573	277	1,529	1,901	615	360

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding. [1]Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data.
[2]Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data.
[3]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of F. W. Dodge Div., McGraw-Hill Information Co.
[4]End-of-month balance.
[5]Beginning January 1978, the Consumer Price Index consists of "All Urban Consumers." Prior to that date, it included only "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers." Historical data will not be available due to the change in coverage. No "Energy" data are available prior to 1978, and "Housing" data prior to January 1978 are not comparable to the new "Housing" series due to a change in definition.
[6]These data were previously presented as the "Wholesale Price Index." The new title more accurately reflects the coverage of the data.
[7]Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year.
[8]Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations.
[9]Excludes sales to federal government.
[10]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R. L. Polk and Company.
[11]Retail sales data represent sales at retail **which are subject to sales tax** as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include taxable sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the *Census of Retail Trade*. **Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. Sales figure for the two latest months are normally low because they do not yet include data from late reporters. Retail sales historical data prior to 1984 are not available for the new series. The "Statewide" category in the "County" section provides sales figures which are not attributable to individual counties; it does not represent a state total.**
[12]Represents permits issued by selected permit-issuing places. Private construction only. May be partially estimated by the Bureau of the Census. "Reported value" includes additions and alterations and is not a sum of residential and nonresidential.
[13]Quad-Cities and consists of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia.

More City Finances From Own Sources in 1983

Cities raised three-fourths of their own revenue in fiscal 1983--the highest proportion since 1970, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Since 1976 federal and state governments have contributed progressively smaller proportions of city revenues, according to the bureau. In 1976 federal and state governments accounted for about a third of all city revenues. By 1983 those sources accounted for only about a fourth of city revenues.

Other findings from the Census Bureau's report, *City Government Finances in 1982-83*, include:

--Total expenditures by cities in fiscal 1983 amounted to $853 per capita.

--Tax revenues for cities have not increased as fast as other revenue sources, such as utility charges and interest earnings.

--Salary and wage costs averaged 34.8 percent of city expenditures.

--Capital outlays by cities accounted for 15.8 percent of all city spending.

MSA Sales Data Corrected

Monthly retail sales data for the Dothan, Florence, Gadsden, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa Metropolitan Statistical Areas were scrambled in previous issues. All data for these MSAs have been corrected in this issue. If you utilize these data, please check your records for correctness. Data for Anniston and Birmingham MSAs were not affected.

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The Economy in Perspective

Focus on Morgan County

Morgan County is in the north central part of Alabama. Its seat and only sizable city is Decatur, which had a 1980 population of 42,000. The county as a whole had a 1980 Census population of 90,231, making it the state's eighth most populous county out of sixty-seven counties. Morgan County's projected 1985 population is 98,000, an 8.6 percent increase in five years. The county's population is 90 percent white and 10 percent black. Fewer than 300 of the 98,000 people are Asian, Indian, or any other race.

Most (54.8 percent) of Morgan County's population belongs to the age group between 19 and 64 years, the group that is thought of as the working-age population. The retirement-age population, people 65 years and over, makes up 10 percent of Morgan County residents. Children, people age newborn through 18, make up the remaining 32.2 percent of the county's citizenry.

Employment in the county is heavily dominated by the manufacturing sector. Thirty-three percent of all persons earning wages or salaries are employed by a manufacturing industry. This compares to a state average of only 21 percent. The chemical industry is an especially big manufacturing employer. Monsanto, Three M, and Amoco Chemicals have large plants in Decatur, and there are other, smaller chemical plants as well. The primary metals industry has major employers in Decatur such as Universal Oil Products, making copper tubing and aluminum tubing, and Fruehauf Corporation, making aluminum sheet and other aluminum products. Food manufacturing is another significant industry in the area. Several companies produce animal feeds; other employers process commodities such as soybeans and poultry.

Per capita personal income in Morgan County is higher than in most Alabama counties. Manufacturing wage rates tend to be higher than the wage rates of other sectors of the economy, such as retail trade or services, and these high wage rates may be pulling up the average per capita income.

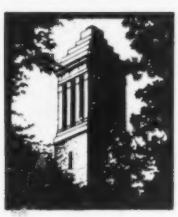
A counterbalancing influence has been Morgan County's high unemployment rate. During the recession all manufacturing industries were noticably affected, and areas heavily dependent on manufacturing suffered greatly. Manufacturing's recovery has been slow and Morgan County's unemployment rate has been above the state average since 1980 and continues to the present in double digits.

The sectors of Morgan County's economy after manufacturing that have the most employees are retail trade (14 percent of total wage and salary employment), services (15 percent), and state and local government (15.5 percent). Unfortunately, growth in retail trade, state and local government, and services is not expected to progress at the rate of the rest of the economy for the next several years. Many occupations in these industries, such as clerks, security guards, and data entry operators, are at the low end of wage scales. So in addition to being low-growth industries, the average annual pay is also low.

Morgan Countians can be proud that the educational attainment of their citizenry is above the state average. Almost 12 percent of the adults 25 years old or older have college degrees, and an additional 13 percent have attended college but not graduated. On the negative side, 22 percent of the adult citizenry in the county have only elementary school educations. Eighteen percent attended but did not finish high school, and the remaining 35 percent finished high school but have no advanced education.

Morgan County is blessed with people who are ready and willing to work, and who are convinced of the importance of education. However, the employment opportunities in the areas have been disappointing. Manufacturing jobs with high wage rates are not expected to open up quickly, and high growth occupations in other sectors of the economy do not generally pay high wages.

--Annette Jones Watters



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